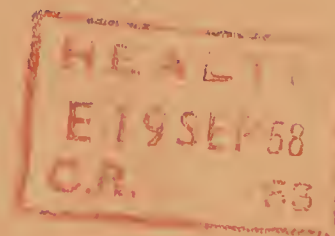


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# ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



*(Herts)*



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1957

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Town Hall,  
ROYSTON,  
Herts.



ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1957

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Councillor G. W. Langridge,  
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,  
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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1957 - 1958

COUNCILLORS:

H. G. HADDOCK, J.P.  
Chairman of the Council

LADY JOAN NEWMAN  
Vice-Chairman of the Council

A. L. Cain, A.I.E.E.

G. W. Langridge

R. H. C. Clark, C.C.

P. F. Sewell

Miss J. P. Etheridge

H. A. Stearn, J.P., M.P.S.

R. J. Gavin

A. V. Thair

W. S. Keatley

R. L. Wilkerson

OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,  
District Medical Officer of Health

S. M. JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.,  
Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

E. R. SWIFT, S.I.E.J.B.,  
Additional Public Health Inspector

S. P. WALTON, F.C.I.S.,  
Clerk and Chief Financial Officer  
(To August 1957)

D. J. WALKER  
Clerk of the Council  
(From October 1957)



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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Royston Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/58, I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1957.

This year the local birth rate (14.9) fell below that for England and Wales (16.1).

The local death rate (12.6) was this year just above the National rate (11.5). The local still-birth rate was above, but the infant mortality rate was below the National rate for the year.

The only serious infectious outbreaks were two cases of anterior poliomyelitis, with one death.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this Report from Mr. S. M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary matters. Also I would like to thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

VICTOR R. WALKER

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1958.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1957		5,020
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1958 (estimated)..		1,726
Rateable Value (1st April, 1958)	.. .. .	£65,619
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31st March, 1958)	..	£259.10.8d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Royston Urban District</u>	<u>Comparable rates for England and Wales.</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	74	37	37		
(Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All	75	38	37		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .				14.9	16.1
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	4	3	1		
(Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All	4	3	1		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .				50.6	22.4
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>DEATHS</u>	64	34	30		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .				12.6	11.5
<u>DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE</u>					
All infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .				13.3	23.0
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births .. .. .			13.5		
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births .. .. .			Nil		
Actual number of such deaths: (a) Under 4 weeks and (b) At all ages Under 1 year					
Legitimate .. .. .			1		1
Illegitimate .. .. .			<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion .. .. .				Nil	
Deaths from Cancer (all sites) .. .. .				9	
Deaths from Measles .. .. .				Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough .. .. .				Nil	
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .				Nil	



## Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population shows a considerable increase (220) on the figure for 1956. Live Births (75) were 7 less and local deaths (64) 11 less than for 1956.

## SECTION B

### Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Royston Water Company Ltd., by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

The difficulties of providing a piped water supply to the Eagle Tavern Area were not resolved, and again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in this district during dry spells.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Twenty-nine new houses built by private enterprise, and ninety-eight new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewage system during the year. One house built by private enterprise was provided with septic tank installation.

### Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal for the year amounted to £2,753.

Due to the growth of the district, the maintenance of a regular weekly collection of refuse has proved difficult, and the Council considered the provision of an 18 cubic yard fore and aft tipper, which it was hoped would be in service during 1958.

Maintenance of the refuse tip was continued and advantage was taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infection was carried out during the year by the Rodent Operator of the Joint Scheme.

### Rodent Control

The operation of the Joint Pest Control Scheme with the Hitchin and Welwyn Rural District Councils showed that useful work was carried out, and in Royston the Rodent Operator's work covered the following:-

Total hours worked on treatments - 201½

The time spent on the various types of premises were:-

Sewers 47½ hours; Refuse Tips etc. 109 hours; Private dwellings 43 hours; Business Premises 2¼ hours.

The total number of inspections made during 1957 as a result of notification or otherwise was 469, including 6 inspections of agricultural land, and 5 block inspections.

The Scheme has worked smoothly, and I would like to record my appreciation of the work of the Senior Public Health Inspector of the Hitchin Rural District Council, who has been in control of the Scheme and acted as co-ordinating officer.

### Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	74
Under the Public Health Acts	198
Under the Factory Acts	70
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	14
Milk and Dairies Orders	4
Food Shops and Stores	73
Bakehouse Inspections	8
Prevention of Nuisances	132
House Drainage	29

Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	112
Rats and Mice Destruction	342
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	22
Miscellaneous Inspections	75

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Statutory Notices served	2
Informal Notices served	130
Notices complied with	128
Houses demolished	2
Undertakings given by owners under sec. 11	-
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action	4
Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	62
Houses roofs renewed or repaired	15
House windows repaired	19
House chimneys repaired	12
House floors renewed or repaired	29
House ceilings renewed or repaired	23
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	20
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	42
Internal wall plaster repaired	33
House drains relaid or repaired	165 yds.
Cullics fixed	13
Intercepting traps fixed	10
New sinks fixed	8
Sinks renewed or repaired	3
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	28
W.C. roofs repaired	10
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	11
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	94
New baths fixed	4
Inspection chambers built	16
Inspection chambers repaired	5
New vent shafts fixed	4
New F.A.I. fixed	5
Water Service pipes repaired	69
Dampness remedied	18
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	17
Hot Water systems renewed or repaired	1
Staircases repaired	5
Blocked drains cleared and cleansed	49
Accumulations of rubbish removed	41
Houses disinfected	3
Bakehouse floors cleansed	1
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	2
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	1
Sanitary conveniences at Factories repaired	2
Sanitary conveniences at Factories cleansed	5
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building Sites	4



## Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	93
Plans and applications withdrawn	7
Plans and applications approved	76
Plans and applications disapproved	10
Approved for new houses	12
Approved for other buildings	38
Approved for change of user	5
Approved for advertisement signs	6
Approved for use of land and for layouts	18
New houses completed:-	
By local authority under Housing Acts	98
By private enterprise	30
Other buildings completed	38
Drains laid to above	4,215 yds.
Gullies laid to above	294
Connections to sewer	59
Vent shafts fixed	141
Inspection of Chambers built	154
Water closets fixed	147
Intercepting traps fixed	59
Baths fixed	137
Sinks fixed	144
Lavatory basins fixed	158
Dustbins provided	140

## SECTION D

### Housing

During the year 98 new traditional brick houses were built by the Council and became occupied. Of these, 11 were of the 2 bedroom type and 87 of the 3 bedroom type.

Thirty new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

The number of properties for which Improvement Grants were approved during the year was 1.

### Slum Clearance Programme

The following Clearance Areas, in respect of which the Council had made Clearance Orders during the previous year, were the subject of Public Inquiries during the year as a result of objections having been made:-

Area No. 10 comprising Nos. 17, 19, 21/23, 25, 27, 29 and 31  
The Warren.

Area No. 12 comprising Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 York Terrace  
and Nos. 10, 12, 14 and 16 London  
Road.

Area No. 13 comprising Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19  
and 21 The Fleet and Nos. 2 and 4 The  
Fleet.

With the exclusion of dwellings Nos. 19 and 21/23 from Area No.  
10, and of Nos. 13 and 15 from Area No. 13, the Orders were  
confirmed by the Minister.

The number of persons rehoused from Clearance Areas was 5,  
comprising 3 families.

No houses in Clearance Areas were demolished, but as a result  
of informal procedure 2 houses not in Clearance Areas were demolished.

Further inspections of unfit houses were made, but no formal  
action had been taken in respect of these during the year.

## SECTION E                      INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling  
foodstuffs are classified according to the type in the following list.  
The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as  
many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

	<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Butchers	6		
Grocers	18	2	1
Greengrocers	5	1	5
Wet Fish	3		1
Cafes	4		
Dealers in Sweets	21		1
Dealers in Cakes	6	1	2
Dealers in Bread	3	1	
Beer etc. (Off Licence)	1		
Wines and Spirits etc. (Off Licence)	2		
Public Houses	14		

### Premises Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream premises 15 together with 3 selling from vans not subject  
to registration in this District.

Fish fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Messrs. Barratt & Company Ltd. of Wood Green, London.

#### Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

#### Inspections of Registered Food Premises

During the year 239 inspections were made to the 19 premises enumerated above, and to other food premises etc., 903 visits were made. In the case of the registered premises, with one exception, there is nothing worthy of comment, but in the one case, a fish fryer's shop very striking improvements coming within the scope of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been effected, namely, the provision of more hygienic type of sanitary accommodation, improvements to wall and floor surfaces, etc.

#### Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advice and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

#### Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.



### Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Cheese (Wensleydale)	7 lbs.
Meringues	2

### Tinned and Packaged Food

Luncheon Meat	7 lbs. 10 oz.	(4 tins)
Corned Beef	187 lbs.	(32 tins)
Chopped Pork	4 lbs.	(1 tin)
Camembert Cheese	approximately 3 lbs.	(12 boxes)

### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations are gradually being enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in most cases provided in the preceding year, but in this town some of the premises being hundreds of years old do not lend themselves to the twentieth century standard of food hygiene. Consequently, some firms, faced with comprehensive alteration of premises, have been considering the acquisition of other premises, or with the entire or partial rebuilding of their present premises. A certain amount of delay is thereby occasioned, but the general picture is one of steady improvement.

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

### Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	10	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	33	30	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers).	3	30	-	-
Total	42	70	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	4	4	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	Nil	-	-	-	-
Total	9	9	-	-	-

## SECTION F

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

For the year 1957, the total notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 5; Acute Pneumonia 1; Whooping Cough 2; and Acute Poliomyelitis 2.

The only important point was the occurrence in early July of two cases of paralytic poliomyelitis, one a mild case in a child and one (rapidly fatal) in a young adult. The infection thereafter completely disappeared from the District.

Diphtheria was again absent for another year. Nevertheless, the offer of immunisation against this formerly dreaded disease continues to be accepted by a good proportion of parents. The offer of vaccination against Whooping Cough for children under 2 years also continues to be widely accepted.

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# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Deaths during the year 1957

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	- (1)	- (1)	-	- (1)	-	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by the Registrar General after final transfers					-	-	-	-

Foot Note: In addition to any new cases first notified within the District there is shown in brackets additional figures of cases transferred to the local register from other areas.

Comment: It is seen that no new notifications were received during the year in respect of locally domiciled persons and no death occurred from any form of tuberculosis.

VICTOR R. WALKER

August, 1958.

District Medical Officer of Health.

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